LHC expresses concern at rising air pollution

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court on Monday expressed concern over rising air pollution and questioned the efficacy of the steps taken by the Punjab government.

During hearing of petitions regarding smog and other environmental issues, Justice Shahid Karim questioned whether "smog guns" serve any useful purpose.

Environment Protection Agency Director General (DG) Imran Hamid Sheikh and other officials appeared before the court.

The judge expressed displeasure over the failure to enforce restaurant closing hours and summoned Lahore Deputy Commissioner Syed Musa Raza to appear in person on Tuesday (today).

He ordered action against the vehicles emitting smoke in the city.

Justice Karim observed that 70 per cent of pollution in the city caused by transport.

"Instead of blaming others, we must correct ourselves," the judge advised the government.

The EPA DG apprised the court about progress on Emission Testing System (ETS) and Vehicle Inspection and Certification System (VICS).

He said the EPA had been working in close coordination with the Punjab Transport Department and the Punjab Safe Cities Authority to curb vehicular emissions.

The judge commended the EPA DG and his team for their proactive approach and effective measures taken against smog. He instructed the EPA to install banners and flexes at major bus terminals to highlight the deadlines for compliance under ETS and VICS certification.

Justice Karim clarified that the proceedings were not against anyone but meant to guide and assist the government.

He remarked that the court had been working on smog control for the past seven years. He indicated that hearing on petitions related to smog control would now be held on a daily basis.

Bank's contribution to flood relief

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Alfalah Chairman Sheikh Nahayan bin Mubarak Al Nahayan and the board of directors have approved an additional USD 5 million, equivalent to Rs1.4 billion, to help rebuild communities devastated by the 2025 floods.

"The latest commitment brings the bank's total contribution to comprehensive flood relief and rehabilitation since the 2022 floods to USD 15m, highlighting its sustained efforts to support communities following catastrophic climate events."

The announcement was made by Atif Bajwa, president and chief executive officer of the bank, at a press conference.

"At Bank Alfalah, we aspire to be more than a financial institution. We are a caring bank," said Mr Bajwa.

"We are deeply grateful to our chairman and board for this generous pledge. It reflects our shared belief in rebuilding lives and strengthening climate resilience."

The newly announced funds will be channeled through a network of partner non-governmental organisations to restore infrastructure, rebuild livelihoods and enhance resilience across Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Gilgit-Baltistan.

Modern railcar launched on Lahore-Pindi route

Upgraded Shalimar Express to be launched from Lahore to Karachi within a week

By Khalid Hasnain

Dawn

LAHORE: The Pakistan Railways (PR) on Monday launched operation of upgraded railcar (Subak Raftar) train on Lahore-Rawalpindi-Lahore route and pledged to start a modern version of the Shalimar Express on the Lahore-Karachi-Lahore (via Faisalabad) route.

The upgraded rake (a complete set of wagons) of the railcar was inaugurated by Railways Chief Executive Officer Amir Ali Baloch who launched the train for Rawalpindi from the Lahore Railway Station along with other senior officers.

"We are making all-out efforts to improve our service for passengers by providing the passengers with modern facilities at the railway stations as well as during their journey. It will give comfort to the passengers," the CEO said while speaking to the officers and passengers on the occasion.

"The upgraded Shalimar Express would also start operating within this week," he added.

Later, speaking to *Dawn*, Mr Baloch said the upgraded railcar would be available for the passengers from Lahore and Rawalpindi for four timings. According to him, there are a total of four rakes of the train, departing at four different timings both from Lahore and Islamabad on a daily basis.

"Three modern rakes of the train are ready while the fourth one would also be included in the new rake fleet in the next couple of days," he clarified, adding that upgraded train rakes had been provided by GEU-20 (American) locomotives.

He further said that each modern rake was equipped with state-of-the-art facilities, including hygienic food (sandwich, juice, water etc) from a known food chain through trolley service, mobile charging ports, clean washrooms/toilets, security, dining room and other facilities.

"Each upgraded rake consists of nine passenger coaches, including four of economy class and five of AC standard, AC business and parlor car," Mr Baloch said, claiming that no one in the road transport business could provide such facilities as the PR was providing at a reasonable fare.

To a question, he said the upgraded Shalimar Express would also be launched from Karachi within this week as its all modern rakes were almost ready. With Shalimar express, the upgraded Karachi railway station would also be inaugurated most likely by the prime minister.

"We were waiting for the rehabilitation of the track that was affected by floods on Faisalabad-Khanewal route. Now the track is ready, enabling us to start the train operation."

To another question, the railways CEO said a plan to upgrade some other express trains was also being reviewed these days and as soon as it was finalized, the PR would launch the operation of the upcoming upgraded trains one by one.

Light rain forecast for most Punjab dists

Lahore continues to be most polluted city globally with 479 AQI

By Imran Gabol

LAHORE: The Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) on Monday forecast light rain in most districts of Punjab on Nov 4 and 5, which is expected to help reduce smog and foggy conditions in the province.

According to the Met Office, a westerly wave is likely to approach upper parts of the country on the night of Nov 3 and may persist till Nov 5.

As per the PMD, rain, windstorm/thunderstorm (with snowfall over mountains) are expected in Chitral, Dir, Swat, Kohistan, Shangla, Battagram, Buner, Mansehra, Abbottabad, Haripur, Malakand, Bajaur, Mohmand, Khyber, Swabi, Nowshera, Peshawar, Mardan, Charsadda, Kurram, Orakzai, Hangu, Kohat, Galliyat, Azad Kashmir (Neelum Valley, Muzaffarabad, Rawalakot, Poonch, Hattian, Bagh, Haveli, Sudhanoti, Kotli, Bhimber, Mirpur) and Gilgit-Baltistan (Diamir, Astore, Skardu, Gilgit, Hunza, Ghanche, Shigar) from Nov 4 to 5 (morning). Isolated hailstorms are also expected during the period.

Rain,windstorm/thunderstorm is also expected in Islamabad/Rawalpindi, Murree, Attock, Chakwal, Talagang, Jhelum, Sargodha, Khushab, Gujranwala, Sialkot, Narowal, and Lahore on Nov 4. Isolated hailstorms are also expected during the period.

The wet spell may drop the day-time temperatures significantly and night temperatures as well. It advised the farmers to manage their activities keeping in view the weather forecast. Travelers and tourists are advised to schedule their trips, particularly to the hilly areas, keeping in view the weather forecast.

Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Director General Irfan Ali Kathia said that the temperature will drop significantly due to the rains, while there are also chances of reduction in smog.Meanwhile, on Monday, Lahore was again ranked the most polluted city in the world, as its Air Quality Index (AQI) soared to a "hazardous" level of 479 between 8am and 9am.

The AQI of Lahore was recorded 271 at 8:30pm, while at the CERP Office its was 521, FF Pakistan 517, Diamond Paints Industries 433, Bedian Road 358, DHA B-block 346, Valancia Town 342, Pakistan Engineering Services 334, City School Allama Iqbal Town 320 and City School Ravi Campus 306.

Meanwhile, as per the Punjab police spokesperson, 28 cases were filed and many lawbreakers were arrested during their smog crackdowns in Lahore and surrounding districts during the last 24 hours.

During these operations, 396 individuals were fined more than Rs1 million and 23 others were issued warnings. Violations reported during the crackdown included 37 instances of crop residue burning, 231 cases of high-emission vehicles, five industrial violations, and 19 violations related to brick kilns.

Election tribunal dismisses petition against Maryam's victory

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: An election tribunal comprising retired justice Rana Zahid Mahmood has dismissed an election petition challenging the victory of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz from PP-159, Lahore.

PTI-backed independent candidate Mehar Sharafat had filed the petition pleading that initially he emerged victorious in the constituency based on Form 45 results.

He alleged that the results were later manipulated using Form 47 to declare victory of Maryam Nawaz. He asked the tribunal to set aside Maryam's victory notification and declare him a returned candidate from the constituency.

In its judgement, the tribunal observed that the counsel for the petitioner advanced arguments, though very short and in other words, he had not addressed the tribunal with regard to deficiencies, office had originally pointed out with regard to non-availability of the affidavit of service on respondents, which is mandatory.

Secondly, the tribunal noted that each page of the election petition was not signed by the petitioner and neither referred to any worth mentioning legal arguments with regard to apparent salutatory non-compliance of section 144 (4) of the Election Act 2017 in the attestation of the verification on oath of the election petition by the oath commissioner.

It said the petitioner's counsel rather addressed the tribunal with general grievances of 2024 election having been rigged besides alleged irregularities and corrupt practices on part of the returning officer.

The tribunal observed that the arguments of the petitioner's counsel were general in nature with regard to the allegations of currency of corruption and corrupt practice during the election process.

It said the counsel failed to address any substantial legal arguments to explain the deficiencies in the verification process together with attestation by the oath commissioner.

The tribunal observed that none of the pages of the election petition at any place contains the signature of the petitioner, which is also a violation of the settled law on the subject.

It said the affidavit of the petitioner also suffers statutory shortcomings and non-compliance of the election law.

The tribunal stated that the petitioner's counsel in his arguments did not make a slightest reference with regard to the objections raised by the office and the respondent's counsel as well.

It observed that the person who alleges is bound to produce strong evidence to prove the same as against any person/agency or institution and before going to second step in terms of proceedings under section 148 of the Election Act 2017 to proceed with regular trial with election petition calling for the production of evidence by the petitioner.

The tribunal maintained that the petitioner failed to cross first legal bar thus the arguments advanced by the counsel for the respondent (the chief minister) against the maintainability of the petition itself holds the field.

The tribunal allowed the application of the respondent and dismissed the petition.

CM Maryam had secured 23,598 and Sharafat obtained 21,491 votes in the Feb 8 general election.

Truck driver involved in fatal accident booked

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Police lodged a case against the driver of the overloaded truck, which had overturned on an autorickshaw late on Sunday, leaving four members of a family dead, outside the MAO College.

The two minor children who were also traveling in the same three-wheeler, however, survived.

The tragic incident had moved many passers-by to tears when they saw the parents had covered the kids in order to save their lives.

The victims were identified as 67-year-old Shafiq, his 60-year-old wife Shabana, their 35-year-old son Sajid and 32-year-old daughter-in-law Iqra. The family was returning from the house of a relative after having dinner.

The truck driver is still at large and the police are trying to trace him in the case lodged against him for reckless driving.

The eyewitnesses told the media that the truck was massively overloaded with soft drink bottles and it overturned and fell on the rickshaw while taking a sharp U-turn on the main road. They declared the incident the result of criminal negligence of the truck driver.

Talking about the heartless behaviour of some locals and the passers-by, a passer-by said the people began to loot the soft drink bottles rather than helping or rescuing the ill-fated family.

Some video clips of this inhuman act of the people also went viral on social media.

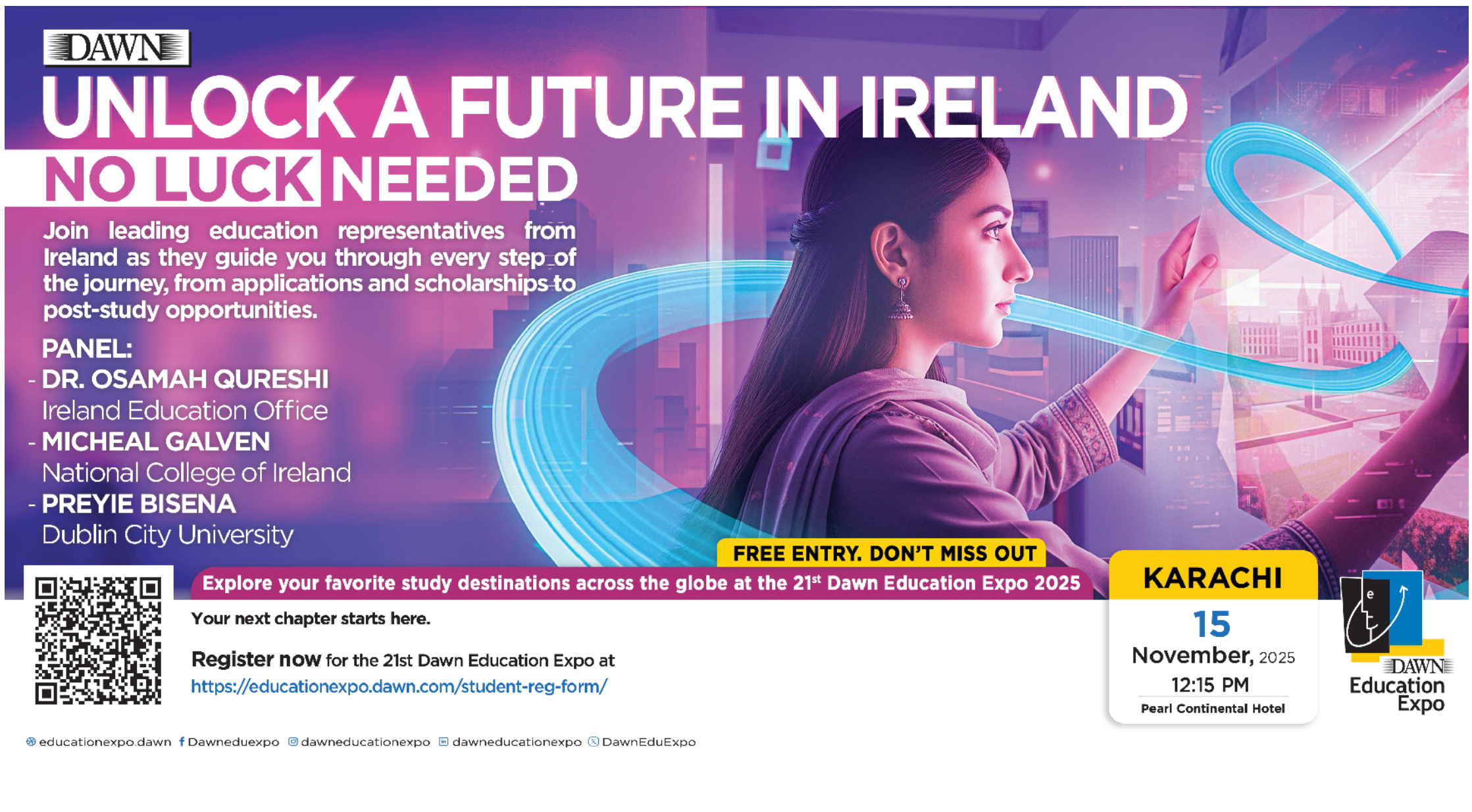
The bodies of the deceased were shifted to Mayo Hospital for medico-legal procedure, while the two children who survived were handed over to the relatives of the victim family. Further investigations were underway.

Locomotive wind screen smashed

BAHAWALPUR: The wind screen of 1-Up Khyber Mail locomotive was damaged on Monday when some unidentified people hurled stones at the train between Shujabad and Multan railway sections. Its driver remained unhurt.

According to railway officials in Multan, the 1-Up was on its way to Lahore from Karachi.

Multan police are looking into the matter. **— Correspondent**


DAWN
UNLOCK A FUTURE IN IRELAND
NO LUCK NEEDED
Join leading education representatives from Ireland as they guide you through every step of the journey, from applications and scholarships to post-study opportunities.
PANEL:
- DR. OSAMAH QURESHI
Ireland Education Office
- MICHEAL GALVEN
National College of Ireland
- PREYIE BISENA
Dublin City University
FREE ENTRY. DON'T MISS OUT
Explore your favorite study destinations across the globe at the 21st Dawn Education Expo 2025
Your next chapter starts here.
Register now for the 21st Dawn Education Expo at
https://educationexpo.dawn.com/student-reg-form/
KARACHI
15 November, 2025
12:15 PM
Pearl Continental Hotel
DAWN Education Expo
educationexpo.dawn Dawneduexpo dawneducationexpo dawneducationexpo DawnEduExpo